



NEWS RELEASE

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Rural Business Enterprise Grant Funding Announced By USDA Rural Development

\$375,000 In Financial Assistance For Business Development Provided

Topeka, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks announced today that the Agency has approved seven applicants, totaling \$375,000 under the Agency's *Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program*, to provide funding for business development and job creation and improve economic opportunities for eight projects in rural Kansas.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our rural economy, their entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to their community is helping to create jobs and bring economic stability to rural communities across Kansas. These grants will provide much needed investment financing for more rural businesses to flourish. USDA funds, combined with the Agency's valuable technical assistance which supports local leadership, helps make these beneficial rural businesses a reality," commented State Director Banks.

Specifically, the seven recipients approved for funding by USDA Rural Development follow:

City of St. Paul: St. Paul, KS – \$93,625 / To assist two St. Paul projects approved, a \$52,125 grant to assist in extending a water line and a \$41,500 grant to assist in the construction of infrastructure related to a new business.

Lincoln County Economic Development; Lincoln, KS – \$85,000 / To establish a revolving loan fund for Lincoln County. This revolving loan fund will be utilized for making loans to small businesses to create new jobs in Lincoln County.

Oberlin Decatur Area Economic Development Corporation, Inc.; Oberlin, KS – \$85,000 / To establish a revolving loan fund to assist start-up and existing business expansions to create employment growth in northwest Kansas.

Phillips County Development & Community Foundation, Inc.; Phillipsburg, KS – \$60,000 / Funds will be used to supply technical assistance to small and emerging businesses in Phillips County and the surrounding twelve county region.

Q.U.A.D. Facilitation Program, Inc.; Sedan, KS – \$25,000 / Funds will be used to assist in encouraging and supporting regional entrepreneurial business endeavors.

(continued)

Flint Hills RC&D; Strong City, KS – \$20,975 / Funds will be used to assist Flint Hills RC&D in providing technical assistance to rural producers who have interests in developing or expanding an agritourism business.

Harper County Economic Development Council, Inc.; Anthony, KS – \$5,400 / Funds will be used to complete a feasibility study for a new business that is being proposed in Anthony.

During today's announcement, State Director Banks thanked the Kansas Congressional Delegation for their continued support of the Agency's *Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program*, along with the many other USDA Rural Development programs. "Over the past thirteen years alone, the Agency's *Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program* has contributed over \$4 million in added growth to the Sunflower State's economy. This represents nearly 800 jobs created and/or saved in communities across the State," remarked Banks.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life of rural residents. The Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. Last year, USDA Rural Development provided nearly \$235 million in direct funding for community and economic development projects across rural Kansas.

For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, individuals may call the Agency's state headquarters at 785-271-2700 or log onto the state's Agency website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks .

USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.*

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